

GUARDIAN ANGELS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



705 Centre Road
WATERDOWN, Ontario L8N 2Z7
Telephone: 905-523-2345 Fax: 905-689-0244



guan@hwcdsb.ca

Mr. P. Messina
Principal

Mrs. J. Townsend
Principal

Mrs. O. Tsiodras
Secretary

Mr. M. Hucal
Superintendent of Education

Mr. M. Valvasori
Trustee



*"Forgive, Understand,
Love & Lead"*



September 2020

WELCOME BACK!



Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of our Guardian Angels Catholic Elementary School Staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all students (both face-to-face and remote learners) and parents/guardians to a new school year. A special welcome to our new families and staff.

New to Guardian Angels Staff are: **Mrs. Babineau** (FDK Teacher), **Lisa Brown** (SERT), **Mrs. Gillis (DECE)**, **Mrs. Olivia Ingraudo** (Gr. 6 Teacher), **Ms. Michelle Prue** (EA), and **Ms. Carolina Rabideau** (EA). We will also have some long term occasional teachers who are substituting for **Mrs. Fleet and Mr. Fleet**. As well, we have **Mrs. Mauro, Mrs. Melnic, and Mrs. Pollice** (all newly transferred teachers to our school off on a maternity leave. (See next page for up-dated staff list including **Long Term Occasional Teachers** for this year).

School Hours are as follows:

Entrance: **8:45 a.m. (8:40a.m. Warning Bell)**

Morning Recess: **9:55 a.m.**

Lunch: **11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.**

Afternoon Recess: **1:40 p.m.**

Dismissal: **3:05 p.m.**

Students are not to arrive at school before 8:30 a.m. as there will be no supervision at that time. Students are to walk directly into class upon arrival.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

As we welcome students back to Guardian Angels CES, we also invite you to become an active member of our school community. The first Catholic School Council General Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, October 6th, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. through a virtual platform on Teams**. At this meeting we will elect our new Catholic School Council Executive for this school year, and begin to discuss our first order of business. As parents of this community it is important that you are well informed and that you have a voice in important decisions. Nomination forms are required to be completed should you wish to run for executive council. The nomination form is attached (2nd last page), so please take the time to nominate a parent or yourself to be a part of the Catholic School Council. All nomination forms **are due by Friday, October 2nd, 2020**. Forms can be emailed to guan@hwcdsb.ca

SCHOOL MISSION AND VISION:

The Mission:

As a Guardian Angel, I Promise to lead like Jesus.

I am someone who will bring about peace by forgiving others.

I will take academic and spiritual risks and learn from my mistakes.

I believe in what is right and I will guide others to make the right choices.

I am someone that shows compassion by listening to understand.

I will develop winning habits through repetition, meditation and prayer.

I believe the warmth that kindness brings is reciprocal so I need to make the effort to be kind.

I promise to be an independent respectful learner by always using my God given gifts.

If I live this Mission and Creed I will inspire others to be a true Guardian Angel and create an environment where each belongs.

The Vision: *If I lead like Jesus, then I will always be reminded to forgive, understand, love and lead.*

School Motto: FORGIVE, UNDERSTAND, LOVE, AND LEAD

GUARDIAN ANGELS STAFF LIST:

OFFICE STAFF		
Mr. Peter Messina – Principal		Mrs. Carm Douliou – French
Mrs. Jennifer Townsend -Vice Principal		Mlle. Alexandra Campbell– French
Mrs. Ourania Tsiodras - Secretary		
Mrs. Leanna Hoodless –Itinerant Clerk		Mrs. Krysten Bateman P.P.T.
Mrs. Rose Frangipane- Itinerant Clerk		
		EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS
TEACHERS		Mrs. Lynda Arnett
Mrs. Mallory Babineau – FDKA		Ms. Katie Egan
Miss. Julianna Bozzo - FDKB		Mr. Anthony Ippolito
Mrs. Shannon Maskell-Dubois - FDKC		Ms. Michelle Prue
Mrs. Florence Roccasanto - FDKD		Ms. Carolina Rabideau
		Mrs. Maria Vallve-Spence
Mrs. Lena Caprio - 1A		
Mrs. Rebecca DeClerk – 1B		EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS
Mrs. Shelly Krenos -1/2		Mrs. Connie Bowman
Mrs. Dragana Bago – 2A		Mrs. Maria DeSouza
Ms. Ashley Cabral (LTO) – 2/3		Mrs. Dana Gillis
Mrs. Chantal Jacka– 3A		Mrs. Lisa Kondrat
Mrs. Christina Kinsella – 3B		
		CUSTODIAL STAFF
Ms. Denise Searby– 4A		Mr. Pino Mesaros – Day Custodian
Ms. Lena Sousa (LTO) – 4/5		Mr. Mike Crustolo – Assist. Night Custodian
Mrs. Matilde Ciavarra - 5		
Mrs. Sharon Pickering - 5/6		
Mrs. Olivia Ingraudo - 6		LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS
Mrs. Sarah Cifani (LTO) – 6/7		Mrs. Rochelle Ing
		Mrs. Jessica Love

Ms. Marla Condello (LTO) – 7		
Ms. Cliona Rooney-7/8		BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
Mrs. Jennifer Gunby 8A		Mrs. Lori Johnson - Supervisor
Mrs. Erin LaCombe – 8B		Ms. Sarah Howes
		Mrs. Melanie Keyes
Mrs. Lisa Brown – S.E.R.T		Mrs. Jessica Love
Mrs. Rebecca Canzio – R.R/PPT		Ms. Georgia Schluyer

COMMUNICATION:

We encourage parents to contact their child's teacher early in the year to enhance the lines of communication between home and school. It has been our experience that ongoing communication between parents and teachers helps to alleviate problems later on in the year. Teachers will also communicate with parents to keep them informed of issues, concerns and events in the classroom. On behalf of the staff, we wish to extend our best wishes to all our students for a very successful year at Guardian Angels CES. We hope they are all excited to put forth their best efforts in the days and months ahead.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

There are many students that may have allergies and may have to take medication for a variety of reasons. The Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic District School Board has procedures that must be followed for the proper dispensing of medication. In order to help us at the school please send a note to the teacher to get the forms that must be completed by their family doctor. All forms and medication are kept on file with the Special Education Resource Teacher. We ask that parents send the medication clearly labeled with your child's name. For all other types of medical forms, please visit our school website or click on the following link called [Medical Forms](#).

Under NO circumstances are children to bring any kind of prescription or over the counter medication to school with them.

All medications must be delivered to the office with the proper documentation in order for it to be administered. Please help keep our school a safe learning environment for all.

REMEMBER

WE ARE A NUT SAFE SCHOOL.



There are a number of students in our school who endure very severe anaphylactic reactions to sesame, milk, peanut butter, nuts of any kind, and/or peanut food products. These reactions can be caused by ingestion and/or airborne. We ask for your assistance by not sending any snacks or lunches that contain nut products. We also ask you to remind your children not to share snacks, treats or lunches at any time with others. **Parents of students with any allergies/medical concerns are asked to inform the classroom teacher and the main office immediately.** We are concerned for the health and well-being of all our students. We thank you in advance for your co-operation and support in this matter.

Friendly Reminder: All schools of the HWCDSB have in place school email addresses. The email address for Guardian Angels is guan@hwcdsb.ca. Parents are asked to use the school email address when emailing concerns. The school Secretary, Principal, and Vice-Principal have access and will respond to parents'/guardians' items at our earliest convenience. Please note it may not be immediate.

However, please continue to call the school directly for other brief questions, requests, appointments, and emergencies.

If you are reporting an absence, please continue to log onto our new reporting system at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>, or call 1-833-275-6703. You may also download the **School Messenger** app, which can be downloaded from google play or apple keyword *Safe Arrival* to your cell phone.

Please visit our school website guan.hwcdsb.ca regularly for up-dates, messages, news, information, up-coming events and monthly calendar.

Also, please view quick access to both *School Cash* (School Cash On-line) and *Safe Arrival* on the front page of our school website.

BE SURE TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING SET UP IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO ALREADY:

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

The preferred method of payment for student items is on-line:

Parents now have the convenience of paying for the agenda book and other items on-line.

After registering for **School Cash On-line**, you will receive emails notifying you of school trips, events, activities, and other items available for purchase on-line.

Visit: <http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com>



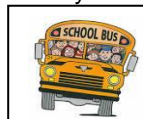
OFFICE NEWS

The office is a very active and busy place. The phones are a necessary component of daily office procedures. As you can appreciate, lines must be kept free for incoming and outgoing calls. Students will not be allowed to use the phone for forgotten homework, after school arrangements, school supplies, or trip permission forms. It is the students' responsibility to prepare for the school day the night before. In the case of an emergency, we will contact the parent. We believe that it is important that students understand their responsibility of coming to school prepared. Please be sure to let your child know if the after school pick-up arrangements have changed before they leave home and send a note to the teacher, also to be shared with the office.

Students are reminded of the bus rules regularly. Please reinforce these rules so that the transition from home to school is smooth. **Students must ONLY ride their designated bus and sit in their assigned cohort seat.** In the past, parents have sent notes giving their child permission to ride a friend's bus. This procedure is NOT allowed as the buses have a record of the students and the contact numbers in case of an emergency, including procedures we have in place because of COVID-19. When students are not taking the bus home, a written note must be sent to the school to confirm this. If your child is being picked up by another person, please notify the school with a written note. Your child's safety is important to us. Remember, the bus service is a **privilege, not a right.** Thank you for your cooperation.

Student Bus Patrollers & Lunch Monitors:

We will NOT have either of these student initiatives and leadership positions for now. Students are supervised by staff throughout the day. Hopefully we may begin both of these student leadership rolls sometime in the future.



ATTENDANCE, LUNCHROOM PROCEDURES and VISITORS

As you know the **safety of the children under our care is one of our most important responsibilities.** To help us keep the students safe and to help us keep track of all the students under our care, the following policies and procedures will be exercised throughout the year:

- 1) If your child is going to be absent, please continue to call our **Safe Arrival** reporting system in the morning. Students may not leave the school unless they have a note from their parents and **they are picked up by an adult at the outside front office doors.**
- 2) To allow for social distancing, students are asked to enter the building when they arrive, and are to move to their respective classroom. Staff will be on hall supervision.
- 3) Our lunch break is from 11:30 to 12:20 p.m.

Because of COVID-19 and the various protocols in place, safety of all students is paramount. To that end, students will not be allowed to go out for lunch.

- 4) Visitors and guests are not allowed in the building for now.
- 5) If you need to drop off lunch or any item forgotten by your child, we ask that you call the school in advance. Upon arrival at the school, you will be given direction as to where to leave your item.

VOLUNTEERS

Due to COVID-19, unfortunately we are unable to accept visitors/volunteers in the school at this time. We look forward to welcoming guests in the near future.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A STUDENT:



**"Our talents are God's gift to us.
What we do with them is our gift to God."**

(Leo Buscaglia)

All students are expected to work to the best of their abilities and complete work as it is assigned. Proper behaviour in the playground and the classroom also help students find success since the focus at school is to challenge ourselves to do our best in all areas at all times.

Homework

Please reinforce with your child the importance of completing their daily assignments since it helps them find success. Daily homework based on a child's grade (approximately 10 minutes per grade) is a good way to reinforce concepts and skills. Also, daily reading is essential for good skill development. Students that regularly fail to complete assignments may lose privileges, have in school withdrawals, and further action will be taken if necessary.

Daily Physical Activity (DPA)

In order to help improve the fitness level of our students and to fulfill the Ministry of Education's mandate for daily physical activity we will once again take time for students to run/walk and exercise throughout the day. Please support healthy eating and exercise at home as well so that children can work to reach their full potential.

Agendas

Students will be using agendas to keep them on task. **The agenda is a great communication tool to help**

you communicate with staff. Please take the time to read it and sign it daily. Payment for agendas is available through [“Cash-on-line”](#). Distribution of agendas take place upon payment as early as the first week of school.

Electronic Devices

Technology-Bring Your Own Device

To prepare our 21st century learners we will continue with the **“Bring Your Own Device” initiative for the Grade 4-8 students of Guardian Angels.** Students will be allowed to bring in devices such as tablets and laptops for educational purposes only, (cell phones are too small to be used as a learning device, therefore are strongly discouraged). If students would like to use their device as a planner and a notebook they are welcome to do so. However, we strongly recommend the agenda (book) planner for communication between home and school. If you are allowing your child in this age group to bring an electronic device for use in the classroom, **a consent form is also attached (last page) and needs to be signed and returned back to school.**



We are very excited about how this process will help to further enhance the learning that occurs in our school. Should you have any questions, please visit our website at guan.hwcdsb.ca or do not hesitate to contact us.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Devices) Classroom Rules:

Remember: Students' participation in the program is a privilege, not a right.

1. Students must have their parent’s permission to bring their device to school. **(School Form)**
2. Students are allowed to bring their device on a daily basis as long as they have the parent permission form signed.
3. Each student is responsible for his/her device at all times. Other students may not use another person’s device nor touch them.
4. Devices may only be used during class time with teacher supervision. Devices may not be used at recess (indoor or outdoor), or at lunch time, or on route to bus or waiting for a bus.
5. Devices are not allowed in bathrooms.

6. Students are not allowed to post any school pictures or videos they have taken on any social media. (ex. Facebook, Instagram, etc.) All video/photos will be taken with a school owned device with staff permission and supervision.
7. Staff have the right to examine or search the device if there is reason to believe that any school rules or policies have been broken.

Consequences

If a student fails to adhere to our class, school and/or board rules, he/she may lose the privilege of using an electronic device for a certain period of time. Also, the device may be confiscated and returned to the parent/guardian after the instructional day or as appropriate.

Please note, the school assumes no responsibility for any loss, stolen, or damaged items.

Please complete and submit attached Form if interested.

Hot Lunch Days...

Once again, due to COVID-19, we are not permitted to have hot lunch days at this time.

STUDENT NEWS



Student Council Elections

We are in the process of deciding how to run our Student Council campaign and elections this year. Students are encouraged to participate in the process once decided upon, as **STUDENT VOICE** is valued by the school community, most especially by the students.

Spirit Wear Days

We will have Spirit Wear Days throughout the year. Please check the GA calendar for more information.

Community News

Parent Conference

The HWCDsb usually hosts their Annual Parent Conference in the Fall, “Weaving the Catholic Partnership”. However, due to



COVID-19 it is currently being discussed as to when the Conference will take place this year.

UNIFORMS

A reminder that uniform items may be purchased at JML Uniforms

95 Parkdale Ave. N. Hamilton 905-544-1608

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL



The Catholic School council plays an important role in the life and development of a strong school community. Depending on the school's needs, the Council fills a variety of roles and helps the staff, parents and students work together for the betterment of all. The guidelines governing Catholic School Councils have been laid out by the Government of Ontario and require that new councils be elected every school year in September. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school. Once again, **please see attached nomination letter.**

International Language Program for Elementary School Students

Current educational research indicates that learning or maintaining a second or third language has a positive effect on all aspects of a child's educational development. The focus of the Catholic School Board International Language Program for elementary school students is to offer an opportunity to develop and/or maintain the ability to read, write, listen and speak a new language or the language of the home or heritage. The Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board, through St Charles, offers free classes to elementary school students in schools throughout the city. However, just like in the summer, the program will be running virtually once again this Fall/Winter. For more information, visit:

<http://www.stcharles.ca/languages/interlanguagelem/entry/>

A Proud Feeder School to:
St. Mary Catholic CSS

905 528-0214

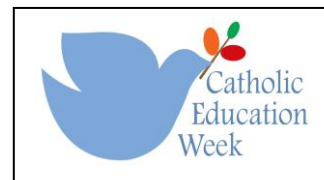
Principal: Mr. B. Daly



FAITH COLUMN

We welcome and look forward to continue our school, home, and Parish relationship with our new Pastor **Father Francis Noronha** next door at *St. Thomas the Apostle Church*, as we serve our students in their spiritual journey through Masses, Liturgies and Sacraments.

Catholic Education Week 2021 - Theme:
"Nurturing Hope" (May 2-7)



The theme for CEW 2021, ***Nurturing Hope***, was inspired by the following considerations:

- Recognition of the special Year of Laudato Si' which will run through May 24, 2021, announced by Pope Francis on May 24, 2020, the fifth anniversary of his papal encyclical, "On Caring for Our Common Home."
- In the face of the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong desire by the

planning committee, along with those consulted, and supported by feedback from the survey, for continuity with the theme for Catholic Education Week 2020, *Igniting Hope*, which has served so well during the spring recess from in-school instruction.

- The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty and physical isolation of the current global crisis makes the timing and the concerns of Mental Health Week, which takes place during the same week as Catholic Education Week, all the more relevant.
- Ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the relevance of Indigenous culture and spirituality to the spirit of Laudato Si.

Pope Francis continually reminds us in word and in action, that in imitation of Jesus, we are called to service in our work in Catholic education.

The Catholic Education Week sub-themes include:

Mon. – ***Preparing the Earth***

Tues. – ***Sowing Seeds of Gratitude***

Wed. – ***Cultivating Relationships***

Thurs. – ***Harvesting News Fruit***

Fri. – ***Marveling in Wonder***



Prayer for the Beginning of the New School Year:

Good and gracious God, as this new school year begins,

Fill the hearts of our students with an eagerness to learn about the world You have created,

About themselves and, most of all, about You.

Bless our teachers with the gifts of wisdom and patience that they may help students find the truth.

Give our parents generous hearts to encourage and support their sons and daughters.

Help us all work together to form a community of learning that teaches not only skills for material success, but all that we need to live our faith fully in this world.

*Yours in Catholic Education,
Mr. P. A. Messina - Principal*

Please see below the following forms:

- Council Nomination Form 2019-2020
- BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (B.Y.O.D.) TO SCHOOL POLICY CONSENT FORM

Guardian Angels CES Catholic School Council Nomination Form 2020-2021

Deadline for Application: Friday, October 2nd at 3:00p.m.:

____ I wish to nominate myself to serve as a member of the Catholic School Council for 2020-2021.

Parent Name: _____ (please print)

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

OR

_____ I wish to nominate the following individual to serve as a member of the Catholic School Council for 2020-2021. When nominating a parent please ensure that the individual has accepted the nomination prior to submitting this form.

Person to be Nominated: _____ (please print)

Nominator's Name: _____ (please print)

Nominator's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Candidate Information to be made available to parents for voting purposes if an election is required. If required, elections will take place virtually on Tuesday, October 6th starting at 7:00p.m. during our first CSC Meeting.

(Please provide background information as to your suitability as a candidate for CSC)

GUARDIAN ANGELS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (B.Y.O.D.) TO SCHOOL POLICY CONSENT FORM

I have read and understand the board policy on Mobile Digital Devices A.12. This policy, (which remains unchanged from last year) is posted on the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board website at: <http://www.hwcdsb.ca/board/policies/?fileID=553>

I have also read the classroom rules inside this newsletter issue on page 5.

I give my child _____ permission to bring their own electronic device
(Print Full Name)

to school and we assume all responsibilities associated with its use. I understand that the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board assumes no responsibility for the safety and security, loss, recovery, repair or replacement of mobile digital devices. The storage of these devices is the sole responsibility of the owner/user.

STUDENT NAME: (please print) _____ Date:

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE: _____